

SOCIAL ACTION NEWSLETTER

PUBLISHED MONTHLY, EXCEPT JULY AND AUGUST, BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL EDUCATION AND
SOCIAL ACTION, DIVISION OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, THE UNITED CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY
MISSIONS BUILDING 222 DOWNEY AVENUE
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

PRICE: \$1.00 PER YEAR INCLUDES SOCIAL ACTION RESEARCH BULLETIN
NO. 1 VOL. V

JANUARY 1942

WAR WITH JAPAN!

James A. Crain

The United States is at war with Japan! This, of course, will not be news when this issue of Newsletter reaches its readers. But is news now, a scant hour after the President appeared before a joint session of Congress to announce the existence of a state of war between this government and the imperial government of Japan. No doubt we shall also have to fight Germany and Italy. In that hour both the House and the Senate have ratified the declaration that a state of war exists. Thus we take a long, long road, the end of which no man can now foresee.

Whatever the judgment of history may be, it seems now to be clear that Japan's attack (upon Pearl Harbor, Honolulu, Manila, and the Philippines) was an unprovoked act of aggression while negotiations for a peaceful settlement were still officially under way. Secretary Hull's charge of treachery and bad faith seems to be supported by the obvious fact that disposition of Japanese naval units must have been ordered while their diplomats were in Washington ostensibly seeking a peaceful settlement of the dispute, if indeed, they were not given their orders before Mr. Kurusu left Tokyo. Other suggestions are that it was a rash action undertaken to forestall any possible change of imperial policy due to Mr. Roosevelt's appeal to the emperor over the head of the government of Japan; that the Japanese government finding itself in a crisis from which no retreat was possible without loss of face, decided to risk everything upon a suicidal gamble. This tendency of the Oriental character to commit an act of self-immolation in moments of desperation is not unknown to the Japanese. But the possibility that it is part of a well thought out military plan must not be overlooked.

Whatever the motives that prompted the action, the Japanese have given the President an immense advantage. Yesterday his policies were seriously distrusted by large numbers of Americans. Today he has behind him a united nation, including the support of such bitter isolationists as Senator Wheeler, Representative Hamilton Fish, and the Chicago Tribune. Only amazing stupidity and ignorance of the most elemental phases of the psychology of nationalism could have been guilty of giving him such an advantage.

The coming of war under such conditions puts a heavy strain upon Christians. Now is a good time to review one's convictions about the wrongness of war and to re-read the findings of some of the recent interdenominational and international Christian conferences called to deal with the war problem. Now is a good time to remember some of the things we said about war in our calmer moments. Now is a good time to remember that the Japanese government does not - does not pretend to - represent the Japanese people. It is a military dictatorship pure and simple and represents only the will of a fanatical army group. Now is a good time to remember that the 250,000 Japanese Christians are even less able to influence their government than we are to influence the course of our own government. As tragic as war is for us it is still more tragic for them. They have already suffered heavily in the China campaign. Our economic blockade has ruined their economy. This war promises only to intensify their sufferings. In this time our preaching and praying must be truly Christian. Christians must not give way to bitterness and hate, no matter what others may do or how great the temptation may be. Brotherly love and fellowship must do its best to surmount national lines and battle lines. Kagawa is still our brother, as all other Japanese Christians are our brothers. While we pray for our enemies we must also pray for ourselves that we may be willing to make whatever sacrifices are necessary for a just and lasting peace.

Finally, the fact that our country is engaged in war does not make it holy. War does not become righteous simply because one is attacked. Our government has done the only thing any government could do under the circumstances. Who is to blame for the circumstances must await the verdict of history. To those who challenge pacifists with "What would you do under the circumstances?" the answer must be "We would have changed the circumstances." You can't wait till your boat is going over the falls and then ask "What would you do?" The time to prevent a war is ten or twenty years before it begins.

"BUILDING A BROTHERHOOD WORTH DEFENDING"

A copy of the annual Race Relations Sunday Message under the above caption will be found in this issue of the Newsletter. The department of Social Education brings this message to the attention of pastors and church leaders each year as a part of its program of social education. Never before has the Message been more pungent and incisive in its statements or worse needed by the churches. Race bigotry is sticking its ugly head up on all sides and many who deplore Hitler's treatment of the Jews find excuse for their own unchristian attitudes toward Jews, Negroes, Orientals and minority groups with whose opinions they do not agree.

We suggest that this Message be read as a litany on Race Relations Sunday (the second Sunday in February). It can be secured in quantities from the Federal Council at a cost of \$1 per 100 or can be reproduced in the church bulletin. Attention is also called to suggestions on page 4 for observance of the 20th anniversary of Race Relations Sunday and to the program suggestions available at 6 cents per copy or \$4 per 100.

"THE EDUCATION OF FREE MEN IN AMERICAN DEMOCRACY"

Through the courtesy of the Educational Policies Commission of the National Education Assn., & the American Assn., of School Administrators we are enable to enclose with this issue a 4-page leaflet bearing the title which heads this paragraph. We believe that the leaflet merits careful reading and that many will wish to file it for future reference. It is an attempt to answer the question, "What kind of education is suitable and necessary for free men in American Democracy?"

Special attention is called to the full report of the Commission published under the same title. Ably written by Dr. George S. Counts, it reviews the tides of depotism and freedom that have from time to time swept over the world. Particular emphasis is given to the period of World War I, the peace, the conflict between totalitarianism and dynamic democracy, the qualities of democracy demanded by free men, the knowledge, the loyalties and disciplines necessary for free men, freedom and control and government, and the part in maintaining freedom and democracy played by the teacher and the school. 50¢ from the U.C.M.S.

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR COMMITTEE GETS UNDER WAY

The Committee on Conscientious Objectors appointed sometime ago by the board of trustees of the UCMS held its first meeting at Indianapolis on November 21. The personnel of the committee is as follows: F. E. Davison, chairman, Urban L. Ogden, vice chairman, Mrs. A. J. Culler, Myron T. Hopper, Harold L. Lunger, Herbert Minard, Willard M. Wickizer and James A. Crain. The committee reviewed the situation relative to Disciple conscientious objectors and directed the secretary to secure from the camp operating agencies dependable information regarding the number and financial obligations of Disciples now in Civilian Public Service Camps. The committee will report its recommendations to the board of trustees of The United Christian Missionary Society.

HITLER'S "NATIONAL GERMAN CHURCH"

In his Navy Day address President Roosevelt declared that he had in his possession a detailed plan, which for obvious reasons the Nazi regime does not wish to publicize yet, "to abolish all existing religions, Catholic, Protestant, Mohammedan, Hindu, Buddhist, and Jewish alike" and to substitute for these faith a "National German Church." In the November 10 issue of Life, Douglas Miller, author of You Can't Do Business With Hitler summarizes the "30-Point Plan" drawn up by Alfred Rosenberg, Nazi cultural leader, on which the new religion is to be built. Presumably this plan has back of it the entire power of the Nazi party, including the Nazi Youth organization, the Gestapo and the Propaganda Ministry. Its fellowship is limited to the German race and no provision is made for the religious life on non-German conquered people. The 30-points are summarized below:

1. The National Reich Church of Germany categorically claims exclusive power to control all churches within the borders of the Reich and declares these to be national churches of the German Reich.
2. The German people must not serve the German church, but the church must be in the absolute and exclusive service of the race and nation.
3. The activities of the National Church will expand to the limits of Germany's territorial and colonial possessions.
4. Membership in it will not be compulsory, but the National Church will do all within its power to secure the adherence of every German and no other churches or religious communities will be tolerated.
5. The National Church will do all in its power to exterminate Christian faiths imported into Germany in the year 800.
6. Existing churches are to be valued and preserved as the property of the German nation.
7. The National Church will have no scribes, pastors, chaplains or priests, but National Reich orators will speak in them.
8. No morning services will be held in the National Church. Services are to be held on Saturday evenings.
9. Members of the National Church will acknowledge God and His eternal works.
10. The National Church obeys the state and strives for complete union with it. All property is to be handed over to the state and the church is never again to be allowed to own the smallest piece of German soil.
11. Existing religious leaders are forbidden to serve as National Church orators.
12. National Church orators will hold office as government officials under civil service rules.
13. Publication of the Bible, books and Christian literature of every kind is forbidden in Germany.
14. The National Church declares that Hitler's Mein Kampf is the greatest of all documents and embodies the purest and truest ethics for the present and future life of the nation.
15. Severest measures will be taken to prevent the importation into Germany of the Bible and other Christian literature.
16. It is the sacred duty of the National Church
(Continued on page 4)

ON SOCIAL FRONTIERS

The cost of living in the U.S. as reflected in a survey of prices in 34 cities in the North Atlantic, South Atlantic, North and South Central and Western sections of the nation shows an overall increase of 8.1% over the average of 1935-1939. From September 15, 1940 to September 15, 1941 the rise was 7.7%. Over the entire period of August 15, 1939 to September 15, 1941 the increase was 9.6%. Certain articles, such as men's clothing, have increased from 10-20%. Furniture prices are up about 20% above a year ago, while big increases are noted in electrical equipment, refrigerators, and washing machines. Women's novelties have begun to reflect the silk shortage in greatly increased prices.

The Foreign Letter of the International Statistical Bureau, New York, for November 6, predicts that Germany will turn her attention back to the west early in 1942, irrespective of the outcome of the Russian campaign, that Ireland will be invaded in order to flank England and to provide bases from which to intercept American shipping going to England. This authority also believes that Hitler has not given up his intention to invade England and that attempt will be made.

When the local draft board at Redlands, California refused to classify Welty Kuhns, Redlands University senior, as a C.O. and ordered him inducted into the army he refused induction. He was indicted for refusing to obey the Selective Service law and was tried before a federal judge and given two years in federal prison. Dr. Albert Edward Day, pastor of 1st Methodist Church, Pasadena denounced the action of the board, declaring "The local draft board not only had the clear, intelligent, manly statement of Mr. Kuhns himself, but supporting affidavits made by his pastors and by townsmen who knew him and had confidence in him. The board chose to ignore both the facts and the evidence, wrote its own canons of judgment and refused Mr. Kuhns canons of judgment....and his unquestioned rights under the law. All this is Caesarism at its worst." (San Dimas Rattler)

Interracial News Service, published by the Department of Race Relations of the Federal Council of Churches reprints an article from Crisis, November, 1941, calling attention to the fact that many Southern university football teams playing in the North have not insisted upon benching Negro members of Northern teams. On two occasions New York University has had a Negro player on teams that have played against North Carolina. This year Texas A. & M. played N.Y.U. with Len Bates, Negro player, in the N.Y.U. backfield. On October 18, the Navy, which had never in its history played a team containing a Negro member, played Cornell at Baltimore with Sam Pierce, Negro, in the Cornell backfield. Baltimore is the home town of the Navy for football games. The article calls attention to the fact that both Texas Christian University and Southern Methodist University have played against teams containing Negro players in Los Angeles. If race prejudice can be laid aside in the name of good sportsmanship why should it be perpetuated in other circles? Maybe the football teams are showing the churches and schools the way to be decent.

TOM JONES RETURNS TO PRESIDENCY OF FISK

Dr. Thomas C. Jones, affectionately known to his many friends as 'Tom,' will close his year's leave of absence from the presidency of Fisk University to head the Civilian Public Service Camps of the American Friends Service Committee and will return to his educational duties on January 1st. The board of trustees of that institution has requested his return until at least the close of the school year in June 1942.

Under his direction eight Civilian Public Service camps have been established by the American Friends Service Committee and are now in operation, accommodating some 500 conscientious objectors. Four of these camps are located in the East, two in the South and one in Indiana and another in California. Civilian Public Service camps for conscientious objectors are also operated by the Church of the Brethren Service Committee, and the Mennonite Central Committee.

Dr. Jones will continue to carry responsibility for the educational program designed to train conscientious objectors for post-war reconstruction work. Conscientious objectors in Civilian Public Service camps, in addition to working eight hours a day on government projects, study languages, first-aid, public health, and practical skills, such as carpentry, masonry, and plumbing in order to fit themselves for relief services abroad or work in the devastated areas. At the present time a group of selected men are training for constructive work in England, Latin American, and China. Negotiations are already under way with the State Department looking to their going abroad.

At the International Convention in St. Louis last May, Dr. Jones appeared on the peace forum program and made a profound impression. Some 500 people came to an informal meeting at 5 p.m. in one of the assembly rooms of the convention hall to hear him further and 350 attended a third meeting following the night convention program.

MINISTERS' NO WAR COMMITTEE URGES RESTRAINT

Immediately following the declaration of war against Japan, the Ministers' No War Committee, which has been active against American participation in the world conflict now raging, issued a statement which was mailed to 30,000 ministers throughout the U.S. The statement reads as follows:

"We appeal to pacifists and non-pacifists alike to exercise great patience, forbearance and restraint. In the present confusion of judgment we must maintain Christian fellowship in the local church. Lift up ultimate Christian goals of just and ordered peace. Avoid hysteria, persecution or denunciation. The hour calls for penitence, humility, tolerance, spiritual poise, prayer, silence. Take time for further thought and consultation. 'Let the church be the church.' It must not bless war, but it must stabilize and comfort people forced into war. Keep open all doors for deeper study and insight. Do not be emotionally swept away. God lives. His moral laws abide. The Prince of Peace is still our Guide!"

Albert W. Palmer, chairman
Dec. 9, 1941 Charles F. Boss, Jr., secretary."

Hitler's "National German Church" (continued)
to popularize "the co-eternal Mein Kampf" and to let every German live and complete his life according to its teachings.

17. Future editions of Mein Kampf must be in content and pagination exactly similar to the present popular edition.

18. All crucifixes, Bibles, and pictures of saints are to be cleared from National Church altars.

19. On National Church altars only Mein Kampf "to the German nation and therefore to God the most sacred book." To the left of the altar is to be placed a sword.

20. National Church speakers will expound this book to the congregation to the best of their knowledge and ability.

21. The National Church renounces forgiveness of sins. It teaches that a sin once committed will be ruthlessly punished by the laws of nature and that punishment occurs during the sinner's life-time.

22. The German Church repudiates the Christening of children in the name of the Holy Ghost.

23. Parents will present children before the altar and take the following oath - "In the name of God I take this holy oath that I (name), the father (mother) of this child and my wife (husband) are of proven Aryan descent. As a father (mother) I agree to bring up this child in the German spirit and as a member of the German race." Each parent will take the oath separately and the German diploma will be issued only to newborn German children on the oath.

24. Confirmation, communion and religious education are to be abolished. The educational institution will be the family, the schools, Hitler Youth and the Union of German Girls.

25. All National Churches must be at the disposal of German Youth. Friday before Easter will be Hitler Youth Day. On this day only leaders of these organizations may speak.

26. The marriage ceremony of the National Church will consist only of taking an oath and placing the right hand on the sword.

27. The tenth day before Whitsunday will be the national holiday of the German family.

28. The Day of Atonement and Prayer is abolished. Instead the day will be used to celebrate the founding of the German National Church.

29. No new clerical religious insignia may be established.

30. On the day of its foundation the Cross must be removed from all churches and "be superseded by the unconquerable symbol of the swastika."

After 19 centuries paganism rears its head again and proposes a church of its own, backed by the might and power of German arms. It is to have a God - the German god of race and nation. The new church is to be the servant of the state and subject to it in all things. All existing religious teaching, ritual, symbolism, & practice is to be abolished. Mein Kampf is to be its Bible, the swastika its Cross, & the sword its Holy Spirit.

Lest some become alarmed by these revelations, let us remember that there are 17,000 German pastors who have refused to serve Hitler, that Catholic prelates like Cardinal Faulhaber still live and that the spirit of Martin Luther is not dead. Most of all, Christ still lives and God still overrules the foolishness of men.

ILLITERACY - MENTAL AND SPIRITUAL

The Gospel Messenger, weekly journal of the Church of the Brethren, quotes Dr. Ruth Kotinsky of the American Association for Adult Education as saying that 16 million persons in the U.S. over 10 years old are not literate enough to fit into an ordinary literate environment. Her figures are based on CCC and army requirements which define literacy as ability to read and write as well as a fourth-grade child

The United States has another form of illiteracy even more sinister than inability to read and write. It is estimated that 17 million children and young people in the nation are without formal religious training of any kind. While there is no necessary connection between mental illiteracy and spiritual illiteracy, both are equally destructive of life's finest values. Adult education and better support for public schools is the answer to mental ignorance. Evangelization of the 60 million unreached persons in the U.S. is the answer to spiritual illiteracy.

PASTOR COUNSELS PEOPLE AGAINST WAR HYSTERIA

Pastor Chester A. Sillars, First Christian Church, Lynn, Mass., in his parish paper "The New Informer" counselled his people on Sunday, December 13, not to give away to war excitement or hysteria. The wise advice of this pastor is worth reproducing here:

"The War: It is now upon us. Don't let it scare you. Don't re-act to first impulses. Don't let rumors get you excited. We can lose our Pacific possessions, but not the United States. We may see an occasional bombing, but not many. Don't listen to war news all day. Don't go to bed on war news. Read your Bible, a poem, a story or the Upper Room, before you retire. As Christians we have a God who is with us. Don't forget Him. Spare the children the news of the war. Don't get them all excited. Let them follow their usual habits as much as possible. Keep them away from the radio war news and headlines, if possible. Do not talk about the war in front of them."

These are words of good counsel. They indicate the way in which the plea of the Ministers' No War Committee, which is to be found elsewhere in this issue, ought to work out in the local parish. Now is the time for the church to maintain balance.

SECTION 562 P. L. &

Department of Social Education & Social Action
222 Downey Avenue Indianapolis, Indiana